

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY  
VETERANS' RECOGNITION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 19.84, Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Veterans' Recognition Subcommittee** was held on Tuesday, May 17, 2016 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 201 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

---

**PRESENT:** Chair Erickson, Ed Koslowski, Rosemary Desisles, Louise Dahlke, Jim Haskins, Delores Pierce, Duane Pierce, Tracy Rosinski, Joe Witkowski

**EXCUSED:** Jerry Polus, Carl Soderberg

---

**\*\*Running Total of Veterans' Certificates: 1728**

1. **Call Meeting to Order.**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bernie Erickson at 4:30 pm.

2. **Invocation.**

3. **Approve/Modify Agenda.**

**Motion made by Jim Haskins, seconded by Rosemary Desisles to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

4. **Approve/Modify Minutes of April 19, 2016.**

**Motion made by Duane Pierce, seconded by Ed Koslowski to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

5. **Update re: Honor Rewards Program.**

Chair Erickson provided an update on the Honor Rewards Program in the absence of CVSO Jerry Polus. There are currently 62 businesses signed up and Erickson is anticipating there will be more signed up by the time the program is officially kicked off. A press conference to kick off the program will be held on May 25 at 10:00 am in the parking lot of the Pancake Place on Military Avenue. Erickson said vets can apply for an Honor Rewards card online, either with a photo or without. He also said that a veterans card or driver's license with veterans designation will also be accepted by the participating businesses. Ed Koslowski noted that the UPS site posted a letter regarding Honor Rewards on Facebook and people are asking questions about how to get a card.

Register of Deeds Cathy Williquette joined the meeting and said that Dane County has had their program up and running for several years and they only have 35 businesses signed up, so she was excited that Brown County is doing so well. She was very impressed with the people who are going out and getting the businesses to sign up. Williquette said she gets a notification every time a business signs up and she sends them a personal thank you note. She has also invited all of the participating businesses to attend the press conference and noted that Jerry Polus was going to send an invitation to area veterans' groups as well.

Williquette continued that the Pancake Place is very honored and excited to host the press conference. She made up a large poster that will be on display to show the forms of identification that veterans can use to receive their discounts and she will also have a large poster made to thank the businesses who have signed up. She noted that when a business asks for materials, she personally drops them off and answers any questions they have. Williquette said that so far there have been 9 veterans sign up for identification cards on the Honor Rewards website. The cards are sent directly to Williquette and she then sends the cards to the veterans with a personal note. She encouraged members of the Subcommittee to attend the press

conference if they are able. The businesses that have signed up for the program so far run the gamut from hair salons, to tax assistance and restaurants and there is a really good cross section. Williquette noted that the Pancake Place gives veterans a discount every day and they also allow veterans to eat free on Veterans Day and that is one of the reasons the Pancake Place as the location for the official kick off.

6. **Possible Discussion re: 2016 Veteran's Appreciation Day at the Brown County Fair.**
  - a. **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Desert Storm.**
  - b. **Fair Agenda.**
  - c. **Approval Fair poster.**

Haskins stated he attended the last Fair Board meeting and the Fair Board approved of the timeline he provided, but they would like the Subcommittee to get the poster to them as soon as possible. Louise Dahlke added that the Fair Association just wanted to know if they could be recognized on the posters (not the banners) as a sponsor. Haskins continued that there was a representative of the Wisconsin Department of Tourism at the meeting and he told Haskins that he would list the event on the Department of Tourism website.

Koslowski asked if the stage rental had been taken care of and Dahlke responded that she did make arrangement for the stage. She continued that the person who rented the stage to us last year, Tom Kane, indicated that he never got paid for last year's stage rental and indicated that he will consider last year's rental a donation. Dahlke has made all of the arrangements for the stage for this year's event and it will be the same size as last year and set up in the same spot as last year.

With regard to the fair agenda, Erickson recalled that we talked about that at the last meeting and do not need to discuss it again until closer to the event.

Erickson passed out samples of the poster to the Subcommittee. He said that tickets and posters will be ready in July because in past years so many tickets were handed out and there was nowhere near the participation for the amount of tickets that there were given out. People tend to take tickets early on and then forget about them or make other plans so this year the tickets will not be distributed until July. The poster was discussed and several suggestions were made. Changes will be made according to the discussion and the poster will be revised accordingly.

Erickson shared a copy of the certificate that will be handed out to the Desert Vets at the ceremony. He also read the proclamation that will be read at the ceremony. The proclamation will be approved by the Human Services Committee at the July meeting and then be forwarded on to the full County Board at the August meeting.

A discussion was held regarding the tickets and how they get distributed. Erickson said that he is always willing to deliver tickets to organizations that run out of their initial supply and he has even had people come to his house to pick them up. Dahlke asked if it would be beneficial to have the Fair Association telephone number on the tickets in case anyone needed information, but it was indicated that the Fair Association's number is included in the flyer so it did not have to be on the tickets as well.

7. **Report from CVSO Jerry Polus.**

Polus was excused from the meeting and therefore there was no report.

8. **Comments from Carl Soderberg.**

Carl Soderberg was excused from the meeting and therefore there was no report.

9. **Report from Committee Members Present (Erickson, Dahlke, Desisles, Haskins, Koslowski, Pierce, Rosinski & Witkowski.**

-Desisles announced that she was going to be moving to Door County in June. She is torn about this and said that her heart is for the veterans and that it has been an honor and a privilege to be on the Subcommittee. She is not sure that she would be able to be involved in any future events. Erickson said that he will leave her on the mailing list for now and she is welcome to be at any of the events she wants and Koslowski noted that there are no residency requirements for this group.

-Dahlke did not have anything to add other than what was discussed above.

-Erickson said he has spent some time looking for options for a give-away item at the Fair. He found a company that makes engraved dog tags and he thought that that would be a good item. He said the cost is reasonable and we could have them engraved however we want. Everyone seemed to like the idea and Erickson said that he will order them and include the chains. Erickson felt that there would be a pretty good attendance of Desert Vets at the Fair and he suggested that 250 tags be ordered as that should cover what we need and the price for those is reasonable. The Subcommittee agreed that the dog tags would be a good choice.

**Motion made by Duane Pierce, seconded by Jim Haskins to purchase 250 engraved dog tags. Vote taken.**  
**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

-Haskins recently saw a news segment that NWTC students had refurbished a Chrysler Town and Country van and donated it to the DAV. He also said that he has been listening to an online, free radio station called Vietnam Vet Radio and it is the only station in the United States dedicated to Vietnam Vets.

-Koslowski talked about the 2016 Armed Forces Day breakfast which will be held in Sturgeon Bay on May 21, 2016. He also reported that Old Glory Honor Flight has announced an event to recognize and publicly thank US military veterans of the conflicts in the Middle East, including Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Day. The event is called Operation At Ease and will be held on July 23, 2016. Veterans chosen to participate will be transported to the Highground Veterans Memorial Park in Neillsville, Wisconsin to participate in the dedication ceremonies for the new Persian Gulf Tribute Memorial.

-Duane and Delores Pierce reported on several things. Vietnam Vets Chapter 224 will be holding their annual memorial at 8:00 am on Memorial Day (May 30) at the memorial behind the Museum. He encouraged people to pass the word and come. Following the ceremony the Chapter will be heading to De Pere to march in the Memorial Day parade. After the parade, a veteran's ceremony will be held at 12:15 pm at Celebrate De Pere. Later in the day, at 5:00 pm at the Admiral Flatley statue on the river, the UPS will be doing their annual ceremony.

Duane continued that he had recently received an e-mail that said the EAA will be doing another yellow ribbon honor flight for Vietnam Veterans on July 29, 2016. People can apply online after June 1 and if anyone wants more information Pierce can provide it. He said that they will pick 100 names at random and those who are not chosen this year will be put in the running for next year.

Pierce also said the annual POW Day ceremony will be held on September 16, 2016 at the Courthouse. He also noted that he had to get a new license recently and when he was getting the license, the attendant asked to see his social security card. By showing the social security card, a star is added in the corner of the drivers' license which means that the identification has been federally verified and you can get on any military base in the country.

-Rosinski reported that the City Stadium Run is coming up on September 10 and this year the fund raising dollars are going to NE Wisconsin Veterans Treatment Court. She would like to invite Jim Belongia who is in charge of the run to come to one of the future Subcommittee meetings to talk about the run. Erickson advised her that that would be fine and she should let County Board staff know to add it to the agenda. Rosinski said that Belongia is retiring soon and is very compassionate about helping veterans and may be a good fit for this Subcommittee.

-Witkowski reported that he usually responds to people who do things for veterans and he shared an article from the paper that said that Bellevue Family Dentistry will be honoring those who serve the county during the month of May and the first 50 veterans and active service personnel who schedule an appointment in May will receive a free cleaning, examination, x rays and a gift. Witkowski felt it was right to bring this up and recognize Bellevue Family Dentistry for doing this for veterans.

-Erickson added that the Oneida Pow Wow is held on the Fourth of July weekend and said it was a nice event that people should look into. Duane Pierce also indicated that the Veterans Pow Wow will be held this weekend in Keshena.

10. **Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law.** None.

11. **Adjourn.**

**Motion made by Jim Haskins, seconded by Duane Pierce to adjourn at 5:42 pm. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Loehlein  
Recording Secretary

Therese Giannunzio  
Transcriptionist